

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/087,069

Examiner

Herng-der Day

Applicant(s)

JAKATDAR ET AL.

Art Unit

2128

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment received 6/12/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-23 and 25-52, now renumbered as 1-51.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Thaiphon
Thai Phan
Primary Examiner

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is in response to Applicants' Amendment to Office Action dated February 10, 2006, faxed June 12, 2006.

1-1. Claims 1, 7, 9, 11, 13, 16, 18, 19, 23, 26, 31-38, and 46-52 have been amended. Claim 24 has been canceled. Claims 1-23 and 25-52 are pending.

1-2. Claims 1-23 and 25-52 have been examined and allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

2-1. The closest prior art of record discloses:

(1) A system for monitoring and analyzing manufacturing processes using statistical simulation (Chen, U.S. Patent 5,719,796).

(2) A method for real-time library generation of grating profiles (Jakadar et al., U.S. Patent 6,768,983 B1).

(3) An optical metrology tool and method of using same (Ausschnitt et al., U.S. Patent 6,317,211 B1).

2-2. The prior art does not expressly teach or render obvious the invention as recited in the independent claims 1, 7, 9, 11, 13, 16, 18, 23, 26, 31-38, and 46-51.

Creating and using a profile-based simulation data store for an integrated circuit as well as using optical metrology tools are obvious as disclosed in the prior art of record. However, the limitation "wherein the calculated signals are simulations of diffraction signals measured using

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an optical metrology device” or its equivalent limitations as recited in the context of each independent claim, was not uncovered in the prior art teachings.

Moreover, as the courts have held that “A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987) and “The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim.” *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). The elements must be arranged as required by the claim, but this is not an *ipse dixit* test, i.e., identity of terminology is not required. In *re Bond*, 910 F.2d 831, 15 USPQ2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990).

Nor was a reference uncovered that would have provided a basis of evidence for asserting a motivation that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, knowing of this specific environment in creating and using a profile-based simulation data store for an integrated circuit, would have applied the simulations of diffraction signals measured using an optical metrology device as the calculated signals to be included in the created simulation data store, as recited in the context of the independent claims.

Dependent claims are allowed as they depend upon allowable independent claims.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

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Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Heng-der Day whose telephone number is (571) 272-3777. The Examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 - 17:30.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the TC 2100 Group receptionist: (571) 272-2100.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Kamini S. Shah can be reached on (571) 272-2279. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Heng-der Day
June 26, 2006

*Thayphan
Thai Phan
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